

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

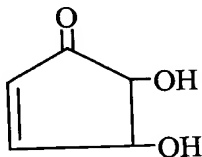
Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing production of growth factor selected from the group consisting of

hepatocyte growth factor, nerve growth factor, epidermal growth factor, milk-derived growth factor, and insulin-like growth factor, the method comprising

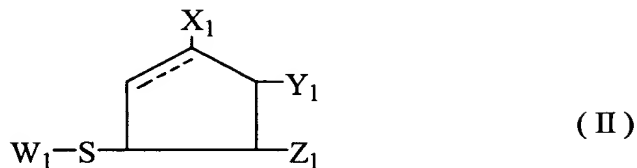
administering a composition containing, as an active ingredient, a compound selected from the group consisting of 4,5-dihydroxy-2-cyclopenten-1-one of formula (I):



(I)

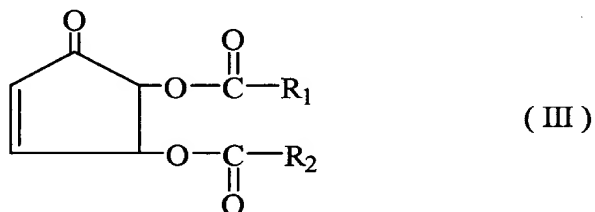
4-hydroxy-2-cyclopenten-1-one;

a compound of formula (II):



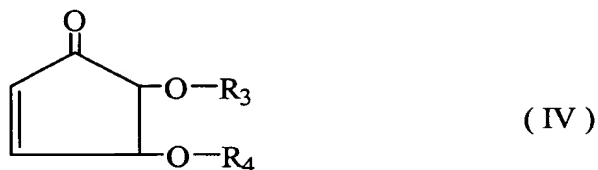
wherein a bond in the five-membered ring represented by a broken line means that the five-membered ring may be either a cyclopentene ring having a double bond or a saturated cyclopentane ring; in the case of a cyclopentene ring, X_1 is OH, Y_1 is =O and Z_1 is H; on the other hand, in the case of a cyclopentane ring, X_1 is =O, Y_1 is OH and Z_1 is OH; W_1 is a residue in which a SH group is removed from cysteine or a peptide containing cysteine;

a compound of formula (III):



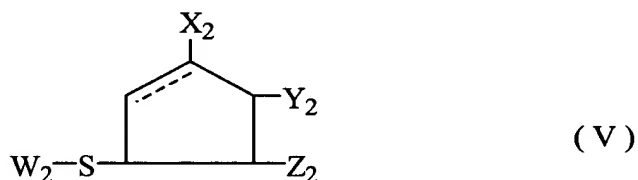
wherein R_1 and R_2 may be the same or different from each other, and are hydrogen, or an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group;

a compound of formula (IV):



wherein R₃ and R₄ may be the same or different from each other, and are hydrogen, or an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group, provided that R₃ and R₄ are not simultaneously H;

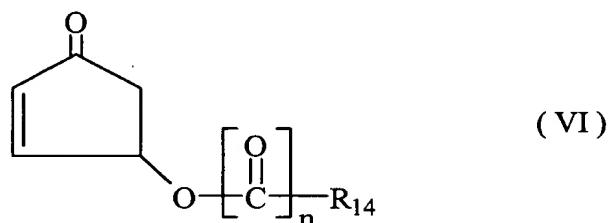
a compound of formula (V)



wherein a bond in the five-membered ring represented by a broken line means that the five-membered ring may be either a cyclopentene ring having a double bond or a saturated cyclopentane ring; in the case of a cyclopentene ring, X₂ is OR₅, Y₂ is =O and Z₂ is H; on the other hand, in the case of a cyclopentane ring, X₂ is =O, Y₂ is OR₆ and Z₂ is OR₇; R₅ is R₈ or -(CO)-R₉; R₆ is H, R₁₀ or -(CO)-R₁₁; and R₈ is H, R₁₂ or -(CO)-R₁₃ (wherein R₈, R₉, R₁₀, R₁₁, R₁₂ and R₁₃ may be the same or different from each other, and are an aliphatic, aromatic or

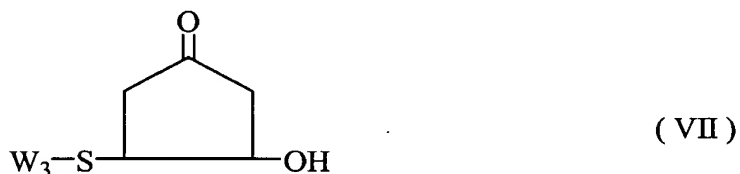
aromatic aliphatic group, and R_9 , R_{11} and R_{13} may be H),
provided that R_6 and R_7 are not simultaneously H; W_2 is a
residue in which a SH group is removed from a cysteine or a
peptide containing cysteine;

a compound of formula (VI):



wherein R_{14} is an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic
group, and n is 0 or 1, provided that if n is 0, R_{14} is not H;

a compound of formula (VII):



wherein W_3 is a residue in which a SH group is removed from
cysteine or a peptide containing cysteine;

4-(9-adeninyl)-2-cyclopenten-1-one; and

4-(9-guaninyl)-2-cyclopenten-1-one,

to a person who is suffering from a condition selected from
the group consisting of ~~hepatitis~~, cirrhosis, cholestasis in
liver, chronic nephritis, wound, senile dementia, Alzheimer's

disease, peripheral neuropathy, a cerebrovascular disease, apex of brain, a degenerative disease resulting from head injury, anesthetic intoxication, growth impairment, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, osteoporosis, and renal insufficiency,

wherein the amount of said active ingredient is above 10 µg/kg/day and less than 200 mg/kg/day.

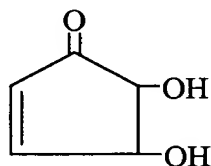
Claim 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the composition is a food or a drink.

9. (New) A method for enhancing production of growth factor selected from the group consisting of

hepatocyte growth factor, nerve growth factor, epidermal growth factor, milk-derived growth factor, and insulin-like growth factor, the method comprising

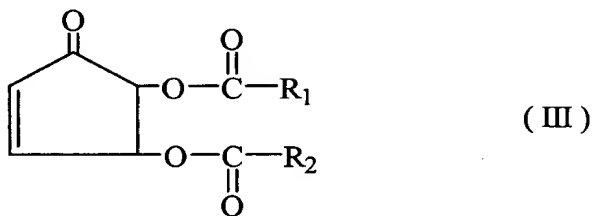
administering a composition containing, as an active ingredient, a compound selected from the group consisting of 4,5-dihydroxy-2-cyclopenten-1-one of formula (I):



(I)

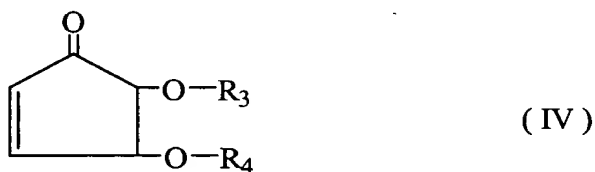
4-hydroxy-2-cyclopenten-1-one;

a compound of formula (III):



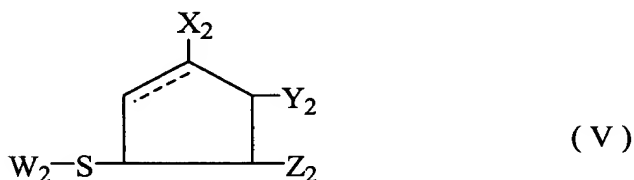
wherein R_1 and R_2 may be the same or different from each other, and are hydrogen, or an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group;

a compound of formula (IV):



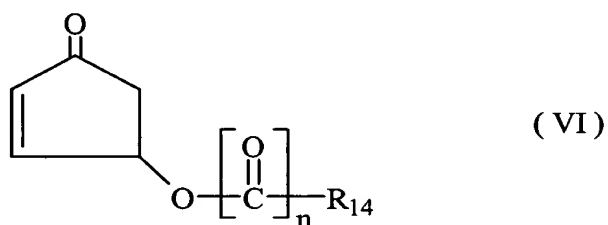
wherein R_3 and R_4 may be the same or different from each other, and are hydrogen, or an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group, provided that R_3 and R_4 are not simultaneously H;

a compound of formula (V)



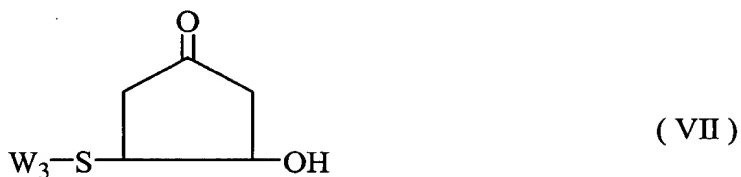
wherein a bond in the five-membered ring represented by a broken line means that the five-membered ring may be either a cyclopentene ring having a double bond or a saturated cyclopentane ring; in the case of a cyclopentene ring, X_2 is OR_5 , Y_2 is $=O$ and Z_2 is H; on the other hand, in the case of a cyclopentane ring, X_2 is $=O$, Y_2 is OR_6 and Z_2 is OR_7 ; R_5 is R_8 or $-(CO)-R_9$; R_6 is H, R_{10} or $-(CO)-R_{11}$; and R_8 is H, R_{12} or $-(CO)-R_{13}$ (wherein R_8 , R_9 , R_{10} , R_{11} , R_{12} and R_{13} may be the same or different from each other, and are an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group, and R_9 , R_{11} and R_{13} may be H), provided that R_6 and R_7 are not simultaneously H; W_2 is a residue in which a SH group is removed from a cysteine or a peptide containing cysteine;

a compound of formula (VI):



wherein R_{14} is an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group, and n is 0 or 1, provided that if n is 0, R_{14} is not H;

a compound of formula (VII):



wherein W₃ is a residue in which a SH group is removed from cysteine or a peptide containing cysteine;

4-(9-adeninyl)-2-cyclopenten-1-one; and

4-(9-guaninyl)-2-cyclopenten-1-one,

to a person who is suffering from hepatitis,

wherein the amount of said active ingredient is above 10 µg/kg/day and less than 200 mg/kg/day.

10. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the composition is a food or a drink.